

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 PCH-03
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
HA-05 ACDA-12 SAA-02 EB-08 COM-04 DOE-15 SOE-02
TRSE-00 EA-12 SSO-00 INRE-00 /154 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH/DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINNAM

-----039086 070247Z /73

O 070123Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
SECDEF WASHDC 0000
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
USICA WASHDC
NSC WASHDC 0000
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 6, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 6, 1978.
FYI ONLY SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

MR. CARTER: I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT EITHER IT HAS BEEN
DONE OR WILL SHORTLY BE DONE, THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WILL
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ISSUE A STATEMENT ON THE LEBANESE SITUATION, IN THE NAME
OF THE PRESIDENT, WHICH WILL BE POSTED OVER THERE.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY TWO FURTHER THINGS. FIRST, A
GENERAL STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE
GOVERNMENT.

THE FIGHTING IN BEIRUT IS IN NO ONE'S INTEREST. IT ADDS
TO THE HATRED AND SUFFERING ACCUMULATED OVER SEVERAL
YEARS OF TRAGEDY IN LEBANON AND DELAYS EFFORTS OF THE
LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, WITH THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF FRIENDLY
GOVERNMENTS, TO REBUILD NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURE
SECURITY FOR ALL LEBANESE.

WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED URGING THEM
TO EXERCISE MAXIMUM RESTRAINT SO AS TO END THE FIGHTING

AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

BEYOND THAT STATEMENT, I EXPECT TO HAVE A FURTHER
STATEMENT LATER THIS AFTERNOON -- THREE OR FOUR HOURS
FROM NOW, I CAN'T BE SURE WHEN, YOU WILL BE INFORMED --

ON THE LEBANESE SITUATION.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT WILL BE?
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS GOING TO ESSENTIALLY NOTE THE
MANY CALLS FOR PEACE IN THE LEBANESE SITUATION AND TO
ADD A DIRECT CALL FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE SAME END. I
WOULD NOT TRY TO PARAPHRASE IT HERE.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT STILL ADHERE TO THE VIEW
THAT SYRIA IS PERFORMING A PEACE-KEEPING ROLE IN
LEBANON?

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A. WHAT WE BELIEVE IN THIS CASE ABOUT THE ROLE OF ALL
PARTIES IS THAT IN THE SITUATION WHICH I AM NOW
ADDRESSING, WHAT IS REQUIRED IS MAXIMUM RESTRAINT.
I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO DEFINE AT THIS POINT, ROLES
BEYOND THAT, OR RESPONSIBILITY. THE BLOODSHED IS A
TERRIBLE AFFLICTION FOR THE PEOPLE OF LEBANON.

Q. DO I UNDERSTAND THAT THE POSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT
NOW FOR A LITTLE MORE THAN TWO YEARS HAS BEEN THAT
SYRIA HAS BEEN PERFORMING A PEACE-KEEPING ROLE. CAN YOU
SAY ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT WHETHER IT STILL
ADHERES TO THAT VIEW?

THAT HAS BEEN THE FUNCTION WHICH IT HAS BEEN PERFORMING,
AS WE UNDERSTAND IT. I AM SIMPLY NOT GOING TO BE ABLE
TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION IN THE PARTICULAR INSTANCES
THAT ARE GOING ON RIGHT NOW.

Q. AMBASSADOR PARKER HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN MEETING MOST OF
THE MORNING WITH MR. SARKIS IN BEIRUT; AND THERE HAVE
BEEN REPORTS THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO RESIGN, AND
THEN REPORTS THAT HE HAD POSTPONED HIS RESIGNATION.

FIRST OF ALL, DO YOU KNOW WHETHER HE HAS INDICATED TO
THIS GOVERNMENT WHETHER HE INTENDS TO RESIGN? AND
SECONDLY, WHAT HAS AMBASSADOR PARKER BEEN TELLING HIM
WITH REGARD TO THAT DECISION?

A. I REALLY AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO COMMENT ON THE
CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND PRESIDENT
SARKIS. WHAT DECISION PRESIDENT SARKIS TAKES IS, OF
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COURSE, A MATTER FOR HIM AND HIS GOVERNMENT. WE HAPPEN TO STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT ALL EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO SUPPORT THE AUTHORITY OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON. WE UNDERSTAND WELL THE STRAIN THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS IS UNDER IN CARRYING OUT HIS DUTIES IN THIS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SITUATION.

TO REPEAT WHAT I SAID EARLIER: WE HOPE THAT ALL CONCERNED WILL CONSIDER WHAT STEPS CAN BEST BE TAKEN TO END THE FIGHTING AND REBUILD THE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF LEBANON -- WHICH IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, IS THE ONLY WAY OF INSURING PEACE AND THE SECURITY OF THE LEBANESE PEOPLE.

Q. WOULD WE OBJECT IF THE LEBANESE WERE TO CONCLUDE THAT THE SYRIANS HAVEN'T DONE A VERY EFFECTIVE JOB OF PEACEKEEPING, AND INVITED THE ISRAELIS TO COME IN?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO SPEAK FOR THE DECISIONS OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT.

Q. BUT I MEAN, WOULD WE OBJECT TO IT? WOULD WE HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO THE ISRAELIS HELPING OUT IN THE PEACEKEEPING -- LIKE THE SYRIANS -- OR ARE WE OPPOSED TO JEWISH INTERVENTION ON A PEACEKEEPING BASIS?

A. I AM NOT TRYING TO DEAL WITH IFY QUESTIONS.

Q. HAVE THERE BEEN DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT?

A. THERE HAVE. ALSO WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL, ALSO WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON, ALSO WITH OTHER LEBANESE LEADERS.

Q. HODDING, HOW DO YOU VIEW THE ISRAELI FLIGHTS OVER UNCLASSIFIED

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BEIRUT?

A. LET ME SIMPLY REPEAT WHAT I HAVE SAID: WHAT WE ARE URGING ON ALL PARTIES IS RESTRAINT -- MAXIMUM RESTRAINT -- SO AS TO END THE FIGHTING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT THAT MR. ELISSAR OF THE PRIME MINIS-

TER'S OFFICE, ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT ISRAEL WOULD INTERVENE MILITARILY IF THINGS WENT ON THIS WAY. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT HE HAS SAID THAT? HAS HE SAID IT TO US? DO WE HAVE ANY REACTION TO IT?

A. I CAN'T CONFIRM THAT AS HAVING BEEN SAID TO US. BUT THE CONCERN OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE SITUATION THERE IS WELL KNOWN.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A REACTION TO THE GAZIT STATEMENT? IT'S ABOUT THE CHRISTIANS -- IN HIS WORDS, "WE CANNOT STAND IDLY BY AND LET THE CHRISTIANS BE ANNIHILATED."

A. WELL LET ME JUST SAY THAT I AM NOT GOING TO HAVE A REACTION TO THE STATEMENTS OR REPORTED STATEMENTS EXCEPT TO REPEAT WHAT I JUST DID SAY.

Q. YOU INDICATED THAT YOUR ONLY CONCERN IS THAT THE PEOPLE OF LEBANON TAKE STEPS OF MAXIMUM RESTRAINT AND SO ON. WOULD YOU CONSIDER PRESIDENT SARKIS' RESIGNATION TO BE IN THAT SPIRIT? OR WOULD IT BE SOMETHING THAT WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS YOU HAVE OUTLINED?

A. I AM REALLY NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO COMMENT ON WHAT-EVER STEPS THE PRESIDENT MIGHT TAKE, OR THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT TAKE, IN REGARD TO THE CONTINUATION OF HIS ROLE.
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Q. IS IT YOUR INTERPRETATION OF THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT THAT IT WOULD, OR WOULD NOT, PERMIT ISRAEL TO USE AMERICAN WEAPONS -- AS ONE ISRAELI OFFICIAL WAS QUOTED AS SAYING -- TO "PREVENT THE ANIHILATION OF CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON?"

A. WELL LET ME SAY THAT IN THE QUESTION OF THE USE OF WEAPONS, WHAT HAS TO BE EXAMINED IS THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THEY ARE USED AT THE TIME OF THEIR USE. I SIMPLY CAN'T DEAL WITH IFYS ON THIS.

Q. IN TERMS OF THE CONTACTS THAT THE US GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN HAVING -- SYRIA, ISRAEL, LEBANON, LEBANESE POLITICAL LEADERS -- DOES THAT INCLUDE PLO LEADERS?

A. NO.

Q. ISRAELI OVERFLIGHTS, I AM NOT SURE WHAT YOUR ANSWER MEANT. IS IT A GOOD THING OR IS IT A BAD THING?

A. I THINK THAT MY ANSWER OUGHT TO SPEAK FOR ITSELF; THAT

IN URGING MAXIMUM RESTRAINT WE MEAN PRECISELY THAT.
MAXIMUM RESTRAINT BY ALL THE PARTIES.

Q. PRESUMABLY THE FLIGHTS ARE MEANT TO URGE CAUTION ON
THOSE WHO ARE FIGHTING ON THE GROUND.

A. LET ME SAY GENERALLY, ANYTHING THAT WOULD HAVE THE
POTENTIAL OF EXPANDING CONFLICT IS SOMETHING WHICH WE
THINK WOULD NOT BE USEFUL.

Q. ONE OF THE CHINESE NATIONALIST SPOKESMEN JUST PHONED
ME EARLIER AND SAID THAT NATIONAL CHINA IS NOT INTERESTED
IN THE KFIR. HAVE YOU HAD ANY CHANGE ON THE PHANTOMS TO
TAIWAN?
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A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY CHANGE ON THAT.

Q. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WHY NATIONALIST CHINA DOES
NOT WANT THE ISRAELI PLANES?

A. NO. YOU'VE JUST BEEN TOLD MORE BY THE EMBASSY THAN
I HAVE.

VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ALGIERS.

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Message Attributes

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